

Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)



Summer 2021

A Message from Michael Blowen

Just when you need the days to get longer, they get shorter, and thinking about the past often replaces planning for the future. I know. I'm old.

Last night, while sitting in my Adirondack chair reading the *Daily Racing Form* and watching Zach bring Silver Charm in, and Afternoon Deelites out, I caught myself remembering the days when Silver Charm and War Emblem arrived from Japan and Precisionist and Black Tie Affair died.

But then I caught myself. Better to think about the future. It's much brighter.



Michael and Silver Charm.



Photo © Laura Battles

The Chestnut Brigade at Ashton Grove

We're working with the Korean Racing Association and June Park to set up a program to bring Thoroughbreds back once their breeding careers are over in Asia. The Japanese Racing Association and the JBBA are supporting Old Friends Japan, a facility modeled on Old Friends Kentucky that will celebrate their great Thoroughbreds.

We're looking to acquire more land, in more places, to provide more homes for more horses. And you can't work on that while stumbling around in the past.



Michael Blowen
President & Founder

In fact, the future is like the fresh *Daily Racing Form* I'm holding in my hands, promising winners. Tomorrow it will be useless.

Thanks to everyone as we move ahead to do a better job of taking care of more and more of these magnificent athletes. I feel like a kid again. And I hope you do too.

Michael



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Old Friends, Inc.
1841 Payne's Depot Rd
Georgetown, KY 40324
(502) 863-1775
www.oldfriendsequine.org

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



Meet Our Newest Old Friends

Even with the curtailing of farm tourism operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the late fall and winter months have seen a steady stream of new retirees arriving at Old Friends, ready to begin the next chapter in their lives. They come from many circumstances with one thing in common—your commitment has helped make the dignified retirement they deserve a reality. We are excited to introduce you to **these 5 (!) new Old Friends:**



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Logansport (20) won four races in a 3-year career before spending time as a therapy horse. His red coat and flaxen mane and tail have drawn raves as he settles in to his forever home.



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Ring Weekend (10) won \$1.5 million, the Frank E. Kilroe (G1) and five other stakes races. He comes to us from West Point Thoroughbreds and the barn of Graham Motion. Ring suffered a retraining injury, and arrived in late June.



Photo © Laura Battles

Ed Johnson (8) is the last horse to represent Lewis Figone's Frankfurt Stable. He won the listed Alcatraz Stakes at 3, and retired to Old Friends in April.



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Smokey Glacken (20) joined our band of Old girlFriends in June. A top-notch sprinter in her racing days, Smokey earned \$650,00 and won 10 races, including eight stakes. We're excited to welcome her!



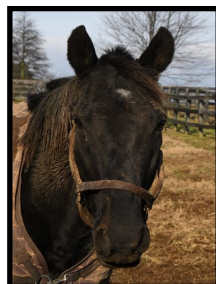
Photo © Joyce Patci

The very popular **Signalman** (5) won the 2018 Kentucky Jockey Club at Churchill Downs & was third in that year's Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile. He retired to Old Friends in May with earnings of \$676,585.

♥ We have sadly said good-bye to these wonderful Old Friends ♥



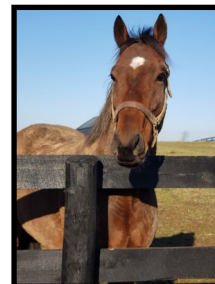
Elusive Honey
2000-2021



Slim Shadey
2008-2021



Timmy
? -2021



Afleet Accompli
2011-2021



Winning Dubai
2009-2021

It was our privilege to care for them.

Second (Not to Mention Third and Fourth) Chances

by Cynthia Grisolia

Cats, the say, have nine lives. We've discovered here at Old Friends that horses, too, can sometimes claim a few extra incarnations. Case in point: G1 winner Ring Weekend, who became a resident this June following a very respectable career on the racetrack.

By premiere sire Tapit, out of the Cryptoclearance mare Free the Magic, the chestnut gelding Ring Weekend showed both longevity and versatility on the track. In all he captured six graded stakes in his six-season career, winning on both the dirt and turf.

His victories as a 3-year-old include the G2 Tampa Bay Derby on dirt and G3 Hill Prince Stakes on turf. At 4 he scored his most prestigious victory, the G1 Frank E. Kilroe Mile at Santa Anita, before being laid up for more than a year with hoof issues.

But unlike many others who've suffered such career setback, Ring Weekend returned to form at age 6 to take the G2 Dixie Stakes and the G2 Bernard Baruch Handicap at Saratoga, both on the turf.

Owned and campaigned by West Point Thoroughbreds and trained by Graham Motion, Ring Weekend retired from racing in 2018, making his last start at Woodbine in Canada. He retired with an overall record of 8-5-4 from 33 starts and earnings of \$1,571,576. But while his racing career was over, the West Point partners and the Motions felt this beautiful boy still had a lot of competitive spirit, and decided he should have a chance to excel in a second discipline.

So he was sent to retrain for a second career in Three-Day Eventing with Olympic gold medalist Phillip Dutton. "Ring showed incredible promise as an Event prospect," said Dutton, who spent nearly two years bringing the gelding along. Then, unexpectedly Ring sustained a career-

limiting injury while turned out in his paddock. While not life threatening, the injury was enough to end his eventing aspirations as the team now felt he would not remain sound at such high-level competition. "I was devastated," said Dutton. "He's a remarkable horse."

Following his recovery Ring Weekend still had a third act to play out. He was sent to Julie Lake's Ship Oak Farm in Massachusetts, where he spent 14 months as a pleasure horse. "Ring spent his days hacking out on miles of trails, galloping along Crane beach in Ipswich, and learning to walk out with the Myopia hounds," said Lake.

But, again, the injury kept rearing its head and Lake came to the conclusion that he wasn't totally comfortable under saddle "After careful consideration by everyone who loves him, the decision was made to relocate him to Old Friends where he can truly retire and live out his life without any more work or stress," said Lake. "He is so beautiful that I am sure he will be a fan favorite," she added. "I will miss him very much."



Photo © Old Friends Farm

And so, it was on to life number 4: Retirement at Old Friends. Ring arrived at Old Friends on a sunny Saturday thanks to Mark Chopper and his transport team at Fairlane. He settled in quickly and couldn't wait to get back out to a quiet green pasture and the business of just being a horse. After 10 years, and three careers, he certainly earned it.

"Ring Weekend took his partners on a great ride, competing at 14 different tracks and in 25 stakes races," said Erin Birkenhauer, Racing Manager/Director of Communications for West Point Thoroughbreds. "Many thanks to the team at Old Friends for welcoming Ring with open arms. We can't wait to visit him at his forever home."

Let's Hear It For The Girls!

by Cynthia Grisolia

Old Friends is known as a sanctuary for great stallions. The hot shots, the bold-faced names: Silver Charm, Alphabet Soup, Touch Gold, Birdstone,

But here's a little known fact: Old Friends has its share of female powerhouses, too. In the past, Eclipse winner Hidden Lake and Golden Slipper (AUS) winner Bint Marscay were among the cool chicks sharing the back 40. Silver Charm's dam, Bonnie's Poker, was one of our first retirees.

In recent years, over a dozen ladies have been added to our roster—some top notch runners, like Romance Is Diane, who was a Grade 1 winner in California, and Smokey Glacken, a daughter of Forestry that earned over \$600,000 and multiple graded stakes.

Others made names for themselves as broodmares—you know, the women *behind* the great men. Hay Jude is the dam of Breeders' Cup



Albany House
Birdsofafaether
Bo's A Ten
Dixie Doree
Final Thoughts
Gold Round
Hay Jude
Hi Dubai
Lady Grizzley
Millie;s Thunder
Miss Du Bois
Miss Hooligan
Misszoey Belle
Mystery Trip
Romance Is Diane
Saudi Poetry
Smokey Glacken
Tellalittlesecret

winner Little Mike, and Miss Du Bois gave us the brilliant millionaire race mare Film Maker.

Our matriarchs have come to us in different ways. Mystery Trip, Gold Round, and Hi Dubai, for instance, were retired via a special arrangement with their caring owners, LNJ Foxwoods. Millie's Thunder was rescued by our good friend and supporter Shirley Ford. Bo's a Ten, a claiming-ranks warrior and one of the retirees at our newest location, Ashton Grove Senior Living, came because her BFF, Ohio Derby winner Magic Weisner, couldn't bear the separation. Others had nowhere to go when their bodies failed them as broodmares, like Elusive Honey, who passed away just this summer.

The distaff members of our farm may arrive with less fanfare than their famous stallion neighbors, but with no less affection. So much is made of our wonderful stallions, and rightly so, but sometimes we just have to say *let's hear it for the girls!*



Gold Round and Mystery Trip



Romance Is Diane



Miss Du Bois and Smokey Glacken

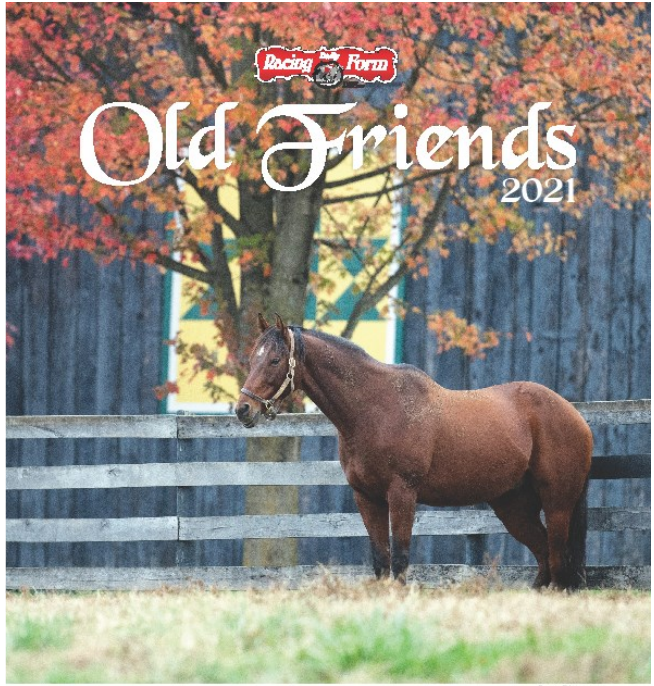
Photos © Laura Battles

These ladies-in-residence hold such a special place in our hearts that we created a special club for them: **The Old girlfriends Society**. It's easy to join and celebrate our mares along with us. For \$100 fans can become a lifetime member. You get a cool gift, a complimentary visit to one of the Old girlfriend's paddocks, and your name listed on the Old girlfriend's Society page on our website. To join, visit the Old Friends website at www.oldfriendsequine.org and see the Old girlfriends Society page.

Alphabet Soup

HAPPY 30th BIRTHDAY!

March 31, 2021
Photos © Laura Battles



Racing Form

Old Friends

2021

Thoroughbred
AFTERCARE ALLIANCE

OLD FRIENDS IS AN ACCREDITED AFTERCARE ORGANIZATION

The 9th Annual Daily Racing Form/Old Friends 2021 Magazine

\$15.00 (includes shipping)
Use the form on Page 7 to order, or call 502-863-1775

*The World according to
Little Silver Charm*



Photo © Laura Battles

If I do say so myself (and I do) I am looking mighty fine this summer. There's a reason why Laura Battles says I am the most photogenic horse on the farm. Just ask her. *LSC*

Horses Healthy at Home: When You Have Friends

Photos © Laura Battles



Daytona and Secret Getaway



Seating for Two



Old Mexico & Skip's World



Affirmed Success and Kudos, photobombed by some close friends.

Amazombie and Rapid Redux



Ireland's Eye and Massone



Tricky Hat and Sarbonne



Poshsky and His Trees



Bo's A Ten and Magic Weisner



How You Can Help Old Friends

Memory Lane: Brick by Brick

Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends
Choose your *memorial brick size, color, graphic and text* to create a lasting legacy!



www.oldfriendsequine.org

Clubhouse Annual Membership

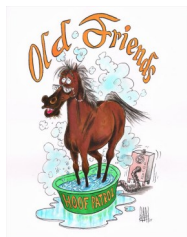
Your \$150 membership includes leather & brass keytag, free tours, discount admission to Homecoming in May, and free general admission to Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY & National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, NY.



The Hoof Patrol

Support the 500+ hooves of Old Friends retirees who have short/long-term hoof issues. Hoof Patrol keychain, email updates, videos & more!

Bronze (\$50)
Silver (\$125) • Gold (\$250)
Membership levels



Old girlFriends Society

Do you appreciate great mares? Your \$100 lifetime membership donation includes an 8 x 10 photo of one of our *Old girlFriends*, an annual visit to the mares paddock, and your name on the *Old girlFriends* web page!



Shares for Life

Show your love for an Old Friends horse! Donate \$100 to support your favorite horse and you'll receive a photo of your horse & a certificate suitable for framing.



Friends for All Seasons

Is monthly giving right for you? Do you believe in dignified equine retirement to a forever home and the value of steadfast, reliable partnerships? Sign up as a monthly donor & receive a gift of Old Friends bookmarks.



Thank You for Supporting Our Horses!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

General Donation \$ _____

Daily Racing Form/Old Friends Magazine (\$15.00) _____

Clubhouse Annual Membership (\$150.00) _____

The Hoof Patrol \$ _____

Gold (\$250) Silver (\$125) Bronze (\$50)

Shares for Life (\$100.00) Horse: _____

Little Silver Charm & Gorgeous George (\$25.00 each)

Old girlFriends Society (\$100.00) _____

Friend for All Seasons Monthly Donor (credit card)

Indicate amount to be charged monthly \$ _____

Other \$ _____ Purpose _____

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Credit Card

Account number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV# _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor and dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing and breeding careers have come to an end.



Old Friends 2021 Tours

Tours Continuing Through 2021

Old Friends tours have been modified to comply with Commonwealth of Kentucky public health COVID-19 safety guidelines. Our tours are outdoors and socially distanced.

Old Friends Tour Menu

Reservations Required

General, Speed 5/50, and Founder's Tours booked ONLY on our website:
www.oldfriendsequine.org

General Tours

90 minutes · Meet 12-15 horses
Thursdays—Sundays · 10:00am & 1:00pm
Limited Availability · \$25 per person

Speed 5/50 Tours

50 minutes · Meet 5 horses
Thursdays—Sundays · 2pm
Limited Availability · \$15 per person

Founder's Tours with Michael

90 minutes · Meet 12-15 horses
Fridays & Sundays · 12pm
Limited Availability · \$75 per person

Private Tours

Single-party tour for groups of 10 and under
Limited availability · \$50 per person
For information and to book:
Call 502-863-1775



Buses and Large Groups

Bus & group touring opportunities
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For information and to book:
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